



Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Pest Detection and Management Programs – Program Update

Program: Huanglongbing (HLB – Citrus Greening) Date: October 12, 2005

As of October 12, there are 64 personnel on-site at the incident, (44 Federal and 20 State). Advance Strike Teams have just completed surveys in Martin County and are now concentrating on St. Lucie County. The core group of survey teams will complete survey activities in Palm Beach County which will close the current TDY assignment. New putative positive sections (1-mile square area) continue to be found by the teams.

To date, 2,072 residential properties have been surveyed, from which 1,212 symptomatic samples were collected. Using polymerase chain reaction (PCR) as the diagnostic tool, 173 trees were determined to be putative positive (in 152 residential properties in Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, and Martin Counties) by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' laboratory in Gainesville, and 14 have been confirmed positive by the PPQ National Plant Germplasm and Biotechnology Laboratory in Beltsville, MD. Trees were removed on 12 properties to date. A total of 161 nursery blocks have been inspected, 114 have been quarantined, and 8 State compliance agreements issued. Several garden centers within the regulated area have been quarantined.

A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) – a “decisional document”- has been made available to the public on the APHIS website. It accompanies the Environmental Assessment (EA) on the “Citrus Greening Control Program in Florida Nurseries” that has already been posted on the APHIS website at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/enviro_docs/citrusgreening.html. Beginning October 10, information on citrus greening and the availability of the EA and FONSI are being posted in five Florida newspapers (Miami Herald/ El Nuevo Herald, Fort Lauderdale Sun Sentinel, West Palm Beach Post, Orlando Sentinel, and Tampa Tribune - in English and Spanish). Public comments will be accepted on either document up to November 10, 2005.